THE OCTOBER MAGAZINES.

In the October number of Harper's Magawine Mrs. Craik's story of "The Woman's Kingdom" is continued. J. Ross Browne has the first paper about his "Experiences in Lower California," which is followed by an account of the Chinese Embassy. An article on George and Robert Stephenson is illustrated with cuts of the first steam engines. Short stories, essays, etc , make up the balance of the magazine. As usual, the "Easy Chair" gossip has some of the most interesting items, and from this department we extract the following about the misapplication of the principle De mortuis nil nisi bonum:-

The pleasant story of Dr. Franklin's life has been often told. Mr. Bigelow, our late Minister to France, as we were recently saying, has admirably edited a new edition of the Autobiography. Mr. Parten also has written a delightful life of the shrewd old gentieman—for such he seems always to have been, and Mr. Sparks collected and edited his various works. As a conspicuous and influential person in our revolutionary history, the Doctor is, of course, incessantly mentioned. The wisdom of Poor Richard decorates certain nursery fire-boards still extant, nor have its echoes wholly ceased in the mouths of shrewd Yankees. Hogarth should have painted his portrait, for he is like one of have painted his portrait, for he is like one of Hogartin's saints. He is the good apprentice in the highest stage of development; and not the less so that in his case, as in that of all good apprentices, there is a very strong desire to behold him when he is not, as it were, singing hymns in church out of the same book with his mas er's daughter. For notwithstanding all the stories of his life and the popular familiarity with it, it is still questionable whether there are not facts in it which are not generally known, but a knowledge of which is essential to the

full truth of history.

When you look at Vandyck's portraits of Charles I, the romantic melancholy of the expression with the charm of certain cavalier ballads that it sends ringing through your mind, flead very hard against Oliver Cromwell with his wart, and Praise God Barebones with his snuffle. The monarchy, we feel very sure, must, after all, have been a very good thing; and we will try not to forget morning prayers upon the anniversary of Charles the Martyr. If that fine portrait were all; yes, and if it were even history? Do we see on it that the royal cavalier was an unconscionable liar?

If not, we do not see the truth. And it is with the memoirs of other historical personages as with this portrait. We see a certain conception of the man, a certain attitude, a certain costume, but we do not see the man. There is a little supplement to the life of the good Doctor, qui eropul, which shows certain facts not to be sound in the published memoirs, but which are essential to an accurate estimate of his character.

So in the neat dining-room of the excellent Worth House, in Hudson, there is a full-length portrait of a former Governor of New York. Looking at it and speaking of the magistrate, a companion of the Easy Chair said: "What a pity! You know about his habits?"

"No; what about his habits?"
"Oh, dear me! no matter. If you don't know I won't destroy any illusions; not at all, not at

Gracious heavens! was he a cannibal? Did he eat young children on Saturdays? Destroy illusions! Why, the insinuation filled the mind with horrible fancies. The Easy Chair rushed to the town library and read all the memoirs. Nothing but greatness and goodness was to be found upon every page. Meeting his companion again the Easy Chair besought an explanation. There was only a sad smile, a serene waving of the hand, a pitying tone:—"De mortuis, you know." Was the Governor, then, really a canknow." Was the Governor, then, really a cannibal, or did he sacrifice oxen to Jupiter in his back parlor? The Easy Chair was not long a prey to doubt. A fellow-citizen less mindful of the duty of throwing unpleasant truths into the shadow said, when the question was saked—"Habits! why the Governor used to fuddle himself with liquor, that's all." That might be all, but it was a very important fact, if it were true. And if it were true, why did all the biographies omit it?

The Easy Chair remembers with mingled

The Easy Chair remembers with mingled feelings the occasions upon which it saw Daniel Websier. One, but not the saddest, was when he stood in the sunset at Dunkirk, and made a speech at the opening of the Eric Bailroad. It was his own sunset also; and the tragical weariness of the hollow eyes, and the air of absence, as if, while solemnly unimportant words were falling from his mouth, his mind were utterly unconscious of the scene and far away, were pititul. Then there was the Cooper Commemoration, or the oration before the Historical Society of New York, and the visit, later in the evening, to a club. The rooms were hospitably opened, so that the company was much more than the club: it was really a kind of public meeting. No one who remembers that scene can recall it without the most mournful reflections. Mr. Webster attempted to make a speech-out he could not do it. He was overcome with wine. Such scenes were not uncommon towards the close of his career. But when Mr. Parton wrote an article upon Mr. Webster, in which he gave a most jelicitous and sympathetic postraiture of the man, he was bitterly assailed for alluding to such incidents, as if he had, in some incomprehensible but flagrant manner, betrayed private confidence, or had, at least, violated the sacred principle de mortuis. sacred principle de mortuis.

What is the explanation of this disposition to tamper with the truth? How hollow and ghastly funeral orations sound when they careinily omit to mention what is most prominent in every mind! Old Grab dies, the notorious miser. He is known for nothing else. His name is a synonym of selfish grasping, of morbid niggardliness. He went to bed at dark to save candles. He perjured himself awfully to save taxes. He was as squalld in his method of life as a Diagon ladder and morbid and morbid. of life as a Digger Indian, and would not pare his nails to avoid waste. A disgrace to humanity and a cumberer of the ground, he dies—and lo! we commit our deceased brother to the earth, and the Revereud eulogist begs us to take warning by his death, for in a moment we may be snatched away, and in an hour when we know not the Son of Man cometh. Warned by his death! Why, it is his life that is the most portentous warning; and not a word did we hear upon that warning in the dismal tone of the preacher. It is very well if he did not choose to say over Grab's comin that he had set an example which all honorable men would carefully avoid; but why, then, did he call attention to his death? To die was the best thing Grab could do. And if warnings are to be urged at all, let them be founded upon the example that is to be avoided, not upon an event

As for the principle de mortuis, the only criticism which it is worth while to make upon it is, that if we are not to hear the whole truth about famous people, there is really no use in hearing of them at all. If a biographer may omit, in order to produce an effect, he may also add. If it be just and proper not to state in a memoir of Mr. Webster that he was very fond of wine, and was often mastered by it, then it is equally just to say that he was a far-naired man of angelic aspect, who sang sweetly to the guitar. What we want is not an ideal Mr. Webster, but the truth. Daniel Webster was never more truly portrayed, nor with higher appreciation of his essential greatness and generosity of nature, than by a man who made his career the text of a most thrilling warning to his countrymen. a most thrilling warning to his countrymen. The Webster that was, the man of enormous power and influence and ambition, who was one of the most conspicuous and memorable
American figures of his time, but whose face,
known of all men, was at last hazzard with disappointment, and whose death was a tragedy
because of his life, is not so faithfully depicted
in all the magnificent and passionate rhetoric of the idolatrous Ruius Choate, who carried the de mortus to a romantic excess, as in the equally fervid and tender, but terrible and complete, truth-teiling of Theodore Parker. Mr. Parton, writing in a calmet time, adjusts the lights and shades of his pourait with great picturesqueness, and his portrait with great picturesqueness, and with evident profound admiration; but he also tells the truth. Yet he does not do it offensively; and when the friends of Mr. Webster by these two astute old heads, was regularly put

complained that he should meution what was really no secret, they demanded that he should be false to his duty.
"Where be the bad people buried?" Leave

be false to his duty.

"Where be the bad people buried?" Leave Mr. Webster, and see where this absurd De Mortuis brings us. Everybody knows Tom Little: and one day he dies. What culegies do we not hear over Tom's grave! Now if a clever, good-natured man, whose conviviality leads to habits of dissipation that ruin him, is to be celebrated as a great and renowned person, it is foolish to suppose that young men will not believe the conviviality to be the sign of the genius, and the dissipation the road to renown. The most immoral performance that we have istely read was not a circus song from the "Flying Trapeze" song book, nor a chanson from the Grande Duchesse, nor a French novel, nor the last favorite of the London clder-cellars, but it was a funeral discourse. It was a culegy and a warning; the culogy of a life that should not be imitated, and the warning from a death that was inevitable. The life, according to the well-meaning clergyman, was brilliant, successful, renowned; but oh, brethren! death is a very sudden mystery. In a moment, in a twinkling of the eye, and you are gone. So said the speaker. But it seems reasonable that if you have led a truly brilliant, and successful, and worthly renowned lite, dear brethren, you need not fear to die. If death has terrors, it is a successful lite which destroys and successful, and worthily renowned lite, dear brethren, you need not fear to die. If death has terrors, it is a successful life which destroys them. Therefore, good preacher, instead of pointing us to the death, point us, it you please, to the life, and let your lesson be, 'My friends, this was a life to be avoided as an example;" or, "Here was a man who used his talents well, who had love and honor because he deserved them, whose life was successful because he feared God and served his brothers. To him, therefore, death was as he gentle opening of a gate beyond which are light and music. It you would die as he died, live as he lived."

Now the immorality of the sermon was, that it

Now the immorality of the sermon was, that it called a life brilliant and successful which was not so. It erected a false standard of character and effort, and it did not tell the truth even in what it stated. It was a perfunctory eulogy, a ceremonial sermon. But if any young person, with similar tastes and tendencies, bad known the person and had heard the sermon, he must have said to himself at once:—"Dear old belly (or whatever the appetite may have been), take your ease! You, it seems, are no impediment. You may master a man, and fead him through private shame and sorrow, and flually tumble private shame and sorrow, and finally tumble him into the grave, and not a word shall be breathed to hint that you were the difficulty. Until I heard this excellent sermon I really supposed that I must master my appetites and subdue my passions; but this good clericus teaches me that, despite the belly, a life may be brilliant and successful; and it the belly ends it at last, only the brilliancy and success shall be commemorated in funeral numbers, and not the offending member. Mother Church absolves

'Who loves not wine, woman, and song, He is a fool his whole life long.'

That was a funeral sermon from the text de moriuis, and its inevitable improvement. Why should people be licensed or ordained or authorized to preach who misuse words so sadly, and talk of greatness without knowing what it means? There was poor Sheridan; did the funeral preacher call that a brilliant and successful life? The Duke of York, the King's son, came to the funeral. Three noble lords, friends of the august Prince Regent—also a brilliant and successful being—sent from Carlton House to sak to attend the obseques Carlton House to ask to attend the obsequies, The Prince himself, a few days before, sent The Prince himself, a few days before, sent two hundred pounds to Mr. Sheridan starving, which Mrs. Sheridan promptly sent back to him. Brilliant—why, the Lords adjourned after his speech upon Hastings, because their minds were too much dazzled to judge fairly. Successful! why, Edmund Burke said that his eloquence had something not prose nor poetry, but better than either. History has not hidden Sheridan's habits, nor failed to say that they ruined him. History has blown to the winds the de mortuis over Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Did the preacher do likewise, or did he praise the brilliant life and beg his hearers to be warned how to die?

be warned how to die?

We may read any day in the papers that drunkenness is becoming a common vice among our public men. It is so well understood that one of the favorite weapons of party warfare is the charge of intemperance against an opponent. But if the papers tell the truth when they make the general statement, what a frightfu immunity public opin on awards to such a vice if it assures the offender that his evil habits shall not obscure his fame, and if he should happen to die of delirium tremens, the bewalling elericus will only remember to praise him for his sober acts and forget to warn us of his fall!

The "Editor's Drawer" has this story about

the late Peter Cagger and Dean Richmond: The recent decease of Peter Cagger, of Albany, who, with the late Dean Richmond, controlled for many years the nominations of the Democratic party of New York, will remind those who have had much to do with State Conventions how those two astute managers combined to bring forward the men whose names were to be put upon the "slate" for nomination. The writer recalls an incident that occurred at a Democratic State Convention held at Syracuse in 1857, which nominated the ticket that was elected in November of that year. Mr. Rich-mond and Mr. Cagger were in consultation at the Syracuse House, on the evening before the assembling of the convention, as to who would be likely to impart most strength to the ticket. "Well, Cagger, about the Secretary of State-what do you say?"

"The newspaper men," replied Mr. Cagger,
"seem to have taken up Gid Tucker; what do
you think about it?" "Don't know much about him; smart chap, they say; writes well, and knows the boys. Best

to go him ?"
"I reckon so." "Put him down."

but him we can trust."

The "slate" was commenced with the name of "What about Comptroller ?" "Oh! Church, of course; there isn't anybody

And Mr. Church's name was inscribed.

"Who for Treasurer?"
"Don't know," says Mr. Cagger: "some of your boys talk about Vanderpoel, and nobody eise seems to be pushing for it."

"Van's a good fellow; knows about lager, talks Dutch, and is a favorite with the women." Down went the name of the stalwart and handsome Isaac J.

"Anybody want to be Attorney-General ?" "Tremain's got it pretty bad," said Mr. C.; "how'll that do west?" "Oh, we go anything; but don't some of those New York chaps want it?"
"No; they're in a little fight about the State

Engineer, and are not pressing any one. Tre-main's 'with us;' guess we'd better go him." "All right; scratch him down."
"What about State Engineer?"

"Well, on the whole," replied Mr. C., "Van Richmond's our best man, but the New Yorkers Richmond's our best man, but the New Yorkers are in a row about it. Sickles and Sam Butterworth are strong for Charley Graham (General C. K. Graham); but Fernando and John Kelley are against it. If we go Graham, who is a nice fellow, there'll be a split, and that won't do."

"Oh, no-no splits! Give them Richmond; they'll swallow it—they must!"

He was smallowed to the Cockers wade.

He was swallowed, though Graham made a

"Well, Mr. Richmord, about Canal Commissioner? imporiant that; must have a good man."
"That's so; there's been too much stealing there, and it ought to be stopped. How'll Jay-cox answer?" "Jaycox is pushed by John A. Green and the Onondaga fellows; he's smart and sound; think

"On the whole, yes." "Put him down."
"And now this Prison Inspectorship-what shall we do with it? Fifty are after it, from all

will be as mad as a bornet."

"Fact; it's a regular nulsance! I've been button-holed four hundred times about it in the last two hours. I'll tell you what, Peter; suppose you and I don't bother curselves about it, but just I t the convention nominate that chap!"

"Acress!"

through: but when it came to State Prison In-spector, Dean and Peter quietly left the hall, went over to the Syracuse House, entered a private apartment, proceeded to place themselves outside of cooring fluids, and chuckled just a little. The convention nominated William C. Rhodes, and that is about all the convention did do.

-The October number of the Nursery is illustrated with a number of pretty pictures, and these, with the entertaining stories and verses, will make it attractive to the young.

-The School-day Visitor for October has a continuation of the adventures of Tom Roper among the Arabs. The story of "Ruthar's Boat" is concluded. "An Island Romance," an account of a visit to Mount Washington, and other articles, are interesting.

-The Coachmakers' International Journal for October comes to us enlarged and improved. This publication ought to be of much practical benefit to the coachmakers in all parts of the country. It is illustrated with scale designs of the newest styles of vehicles, with full descriptions. The articles which treat of the specialties to which the journal is devoted are well considered, and the writers explain their meaning in clear and intelligible

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